

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 25 – 26, 2003**

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners convened a special meeting on Monday, August 25, 2003 at 10:30 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President KD Benson, Vice President Ruth E. Shedd, and Member John L. Knochel. Also present were: Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston, County Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

President Benson called the Commissioners' Meeting to order for the purpose of receiving information during the County Council's 2004 Budget Hearings.

**RECESSED/RECONVENED**

The Commissioners recessed for lunch at 1:20 P.M. and reconvened at 2:35 P.M.

**COMMISSIONERS CREATE NEW POSITIONS**

- Commissioner Shedd moved to create one Nurse and four additional Corrections Officers positions for the Sheriff for 2004, seconded by Commissioner Benson.

Commissioner Knochel said he is skeptical that the contract with the DOC to house inmates will work out. He said the DOC has a reputation for adding various restrictions.

- Commissioner Shedd's motion carried with 1 no vote by Commissioner Knochel.

**RECESSED/RECONVENED**

The Commissioners recessed at 4:20 P.M. and reconvened at 8:05 A.M., Tuesday, August 26, 2003.

**RECESSED/RECONVENED**

The Commissioners recessed for lunch at Noon and reconvened at 1:10 P.M.

**CUM BRIDGE INTEREST**

President Benson called the Commissioners to order at 2:20 P.M. with Commissioner Knochel absent.

President Benson asked the Auditor for a realistic amount of interest the Cum Bridge Fund could contribute to the General Fund for 2004. With an interest amount of \$185,000 for the first 6 months of 2003, Auditor Plantenga thought \$400,000 would be realistic,

By consensus, \$400,000 of Cum Bridge Interest will go to the General Fund in 2004.

➔ Commissioner John Knochel entered the meeting.

Commissioner Knochel said the Commissioners are willing to offer a reduction of ½ cent from the Cum Bridge Tax Rate to generate approximately \$260,000 for the General Fund if the Council agrees to give serious consideration to passing a Wheel Tax in 2004. He asked the Council to initiate the Wheel Tax discussion as soon as possible.

Councilmember Byers asked the Commissioners if they were comfortable with the Council's agreement to consider the Wheel Tax or if they want a yes or no today. Councilmember Vernon said she wasn't going to say today she will vote for it just to get the Cum Bridge money but she is willing to listen. When Commissioner Knochel asked how many Councilmembers would vote in favor by a show of hands, Councilmember Kessler took exception. He said he is not prepared today to indicate how he will vote on the Wheel Tax, and he thinks it is

wrong to put a condition on accepting Cum Bridge money. He said a Wheel Tax won't help the General Fund. Last year the Council was told it would be necessary to cut Highway personnel if the General Fund received Cum Bridge Funds, but he said that didn't happen. Councilmember Kessler said the Council and Commissioners should respect what each body has to do.

***COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED***

- Commissioner Shedd moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Knochel; motion carried.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

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KD Benson, President

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Ruth E. Shedd, Vice President

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John L. Knochel, Member

**ATTEST:**

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Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor